

BRIDGWATER

Rural District Council.

THE THIRTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Wilberforce Thompson,

AND

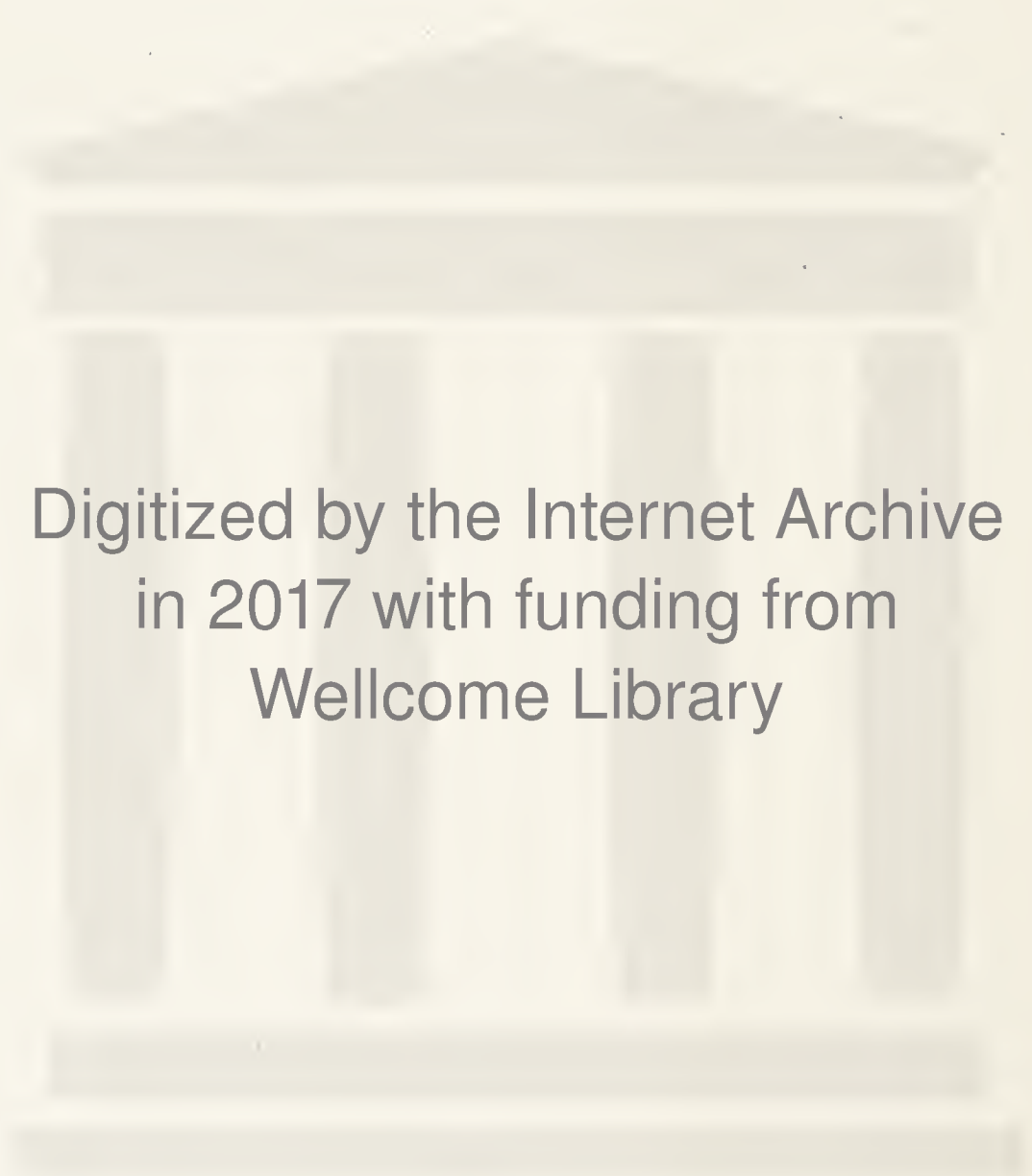
THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

Richard Popham.

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

BRIDGWATER :

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The Thirty-sixth Annual Report
OF THE
Bridgwater Rural District Council
For the Year 1908.

To the

Chairman and Members of the Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of submitting to you my Report for the year 1908, and of laying before you the usual tables of vital statistics.

The District covers an area of 85,076 acres, with a population of 18,238, and is divided into a Western Division and an Eastern Division by the River Parrett. The Western Division slopes from the Quantock Hills to the Bristol Channel and the River Parrett, the character of the soil being red sandstone and clay marle. The Eastern Division is to a great extent level country, the character of the soil being clay land and marsh land, except the portion formed by the Polden Hills which is blue lias.

The occupation of the inhabitants is almost entirely agricultural. The house accommodation of the working classes is good and supervision is exercised over the building of new houses which are erected under the modern Bye-Laws of the L.G.B. as adopted by the Council.

Plans have been passed during the year for 41 New Buildings within the District.

All of these have been erected in accordance with the Bye-Laws enforced within the District.

Sewerage and Drainage, is on the whole satisfactory. In the larger villages the sewage is received into settling-tanks which are emptied as occasion requires. In the Eastern Division the efficient drainage of some of the villages is a most difficult matter, though every endeavour has been made to carry this out satisfactorily.

In the early part of the year (1908), the sewerage scheme for the drainage of Wembdon was completed, and now almost the whole of the houses on the lines of the sewers are connected and in most cases the sanitary appliances have been reconstructed and modernized.

The system throughout is working most satisfactorily, the scheme being so designed as to necessitate the running of the engines and ejectors but twice daily, early morning and night.

The installation of this new scheme has entirely done away with the intolerable nuisance of an open ditch by the side of the Highway being used as a public sewer.

New sewers have been laid at Westonzoyland, Cannington, Othery and Middlezoy. A Ventilating Shaft 25 feet high has been connected to the Burial Board sewer on the Bristol Road.

Excrement disposal. Where villages are sewered the excrement is disposed of by means of settling-tanks as above described. In other cases earth closets, cess-pits, and privies are utilized. House refuse is disposed of by the occupier, no public scavenging being in vogue.

Water Supply. The Council's Water Supply is in a very satisfactory condition, the average daily amount used, about 52,000 gallons—the available supply varied considerably during the year, the lowest amount occurred during September, and was 92,000 gallons daily. The highest in January, 260,000 gallons daily.

During the latter part of the year extensions of the water supply system have been begun for supplying the Parish of Cossington, part of Bawdrip and West Newton, and these districts will be properly supplied by March, 1909.

The provision of a pure supply of water for Cossington will provide a much needed improvement, as up to the present time the only supply was from shallow wells, the water from which on being analyzed was in the majority of cases proved unfit for dietetic purposes.

This water takes its rise on the Quantock Hills from deep springs, and it is of excellent quality, and free from any risk of pollution being conveyed in pipes from its source.

The scheme for supplying the village of Cannington with water by the Bridgwater Corporation was completed during the early part of the year, the provision of good water for this village has been of great benefit.

The Water Supply of some of the outlying districts is from wells, the water from which is in some parts of rather inferior quality.

The Rainfall during the year was 23·06 inches, during the year 1907, 29·61.

Rainfall during each month in inches.			Number of Days in which rain was measured.	
January	...	·82	...	9
February	...	1·28	...	14
March	...	2·85	...	19
April	...	1·91	...	15
May	...	1·51	...	18
June	...	·73	...	8
July	...	1·55	...	10
August	...	2·84	...	13
September	...	2·85	...	19
October	...	2·83	...	14
November	...	1·15	...	12
December	...	2·74	...	19
Total Rainfall		<u>23·06</u>	Total wet days	<u>170</u>

The lowest temperature recorded was 12° on January 4th.

The highest 90° on July 4th and 5th.

Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk-shops, Bake-houses, Factories and Workshops, have been inspected periodically, and any defects found, remedied.

The Bye-Laws in force in the District are Cleansing of Footways and Removal of Refuse, Prevention of Nuisances, Common Lodging Houses, Houses let in Lodgings, New Streets and Buildings, Slaughter-houses, Cemeteries, and offensive Trades. They have been generally complied with.

Nuisances. Notices have been served throughout the district with reference to these, and have been complied with.

The Infectious Disease (notification) Act is in force, and cases reported are at once visited and steps taken to stop the spread of the disease. The disinfection of the premises is carried out by the Council's Officer.

Factories and Workshops, There are 81 Factories and Workshops, viz:—22 Bake-houses and 59 general Workshops, a few minor defects were found and these were remedied by the owners. Very little home work is done, only 3 people being employed in this work, the houses in which they work were found in a satisfactory condition.

The general health of the district has been good. Only 36 cases of infectious disease having been reported, of these 17 were diphtheria, 14 scarlet fever, 4 erysipelas and 1 puerperal fever.

From the seven chief Epidemic diseases 4 deaths were registered as against 11 in 1907, representing the extremely low zymotic death rate of .22 per 1000 of the population.

Regarding the vital statistics of the year, 237 deaths were registered, as against 248 in 1907, representing an Annual rate of mortality of 13.0 as against 13.6 in the year previous, of these 237 deaths, 110 occurred aged 65 and upwards, and 23 under 1 year of age.

In the Western Division of the District 117 deaths were registered, and in the Eastern Division 120.

Of the several causes of death, 10 resulted from Phthisis; 34 from Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Pleurisy; 24 from Heart Disease; 15 from Injuries and 3 from Suicide.

During the year the following Schools were closed in consequence of Epidemic Disease.

Cannington :—January 6th to January 27th, for Measles.

Fiddington :—Dec. 5th 1907, to Jan. 20th, 1908, for Measles.

Pawlett :—January 30th to March 2nd, for Measles.

Charlinch :—February 10th to March 2nd, for Measles.

Enmore :—February 4th to February 18th, and February 26th to March 9th, for Mumps.

Puriton :—February 26th to March 11th, for Measles.

Northmoor Green :—February 7th to March 2nd, for Measles.

Nether Stowey :—February 26th to March 23rd, for Mumps.

Spaxton :—March 13th to March 30th, for Mumps.

Chedzoy :—July 27th to August 31st, for Whooping Cough.

West Huntspill :—November 11th to December 14th, for Measles.

CANNINGTON DISTRICT.

Population, 1,738.

		1907.	1908.
Birth Rate	...	18·4	20·1
Death Rate	...	12·0	12·1

Including the Parishes of Cannington, Fiddington, Stockland Bristol, Otterhampton, and Combwich.

No diseases of a zymotic character have been notified to me in the Village of Fiddington.

Stockland Bristol and Otterhampton The health of these two villages is good. No infectious cases notified to me.

Combwich has during the past year been free from zymotic disease.

Cannington. 1 Scarlet Fever and 1 Puerperal Fever notified to me.

PETHERTON DISTRICT.

Population, 6,425.

		1907.	1908.
Birth Rate	...	18·0	22·2
Death Rate	...	14·16	12·0

The villages of Enmore, Goathurst, Broomfield and Thurloxton, comprise a portion of the Petherton district, possess good drainage and water supply, and the dwellings of the working classes are much improved.

Goathurst. 2 Diphtheria cases reported to me.

North Petherton. 3 cases of Scarlatina, 2 Erysipelas and 1 Diphtheria were notified to me.

Charlinch. 1 Erysipelas case notified to me.

Aisholt. No infectious cases reported.

Over Stowey. No diseases of a zymotic character have been notified to me. Dwellings of the working classes improved.

Enmore. 1 case of Scarlet Fever and 1 Diphtheria notified to me.

Spaxton. 1 case of Scarlet Fever notified.

Nether Stowey. 1 case of Erysipelas reported to me.

WEMBDON CHILTON TRINITY, DURLEIGH, AND BRIDGWATER (WITHOUT).

Population, 1,751.

		1907.	1908.
Birth Rate	...	24·4	24·4
Death Rate	...	9·1	10·8

Wembdon. 2 cases of Diphtheria and 2 Scarlet Fever were notified to me.

Bridgwater (Without). 5 cases of Scarlet Fever reported to me.

MIDDLEZOY DISTRICT.

Population, 1,967.

		1907.	1908.
Birth Rate	..	24·4	17·3
Death Rate	...	17·3	15·7

Much has been done of late in the three villages, Othery, Middlezoy and Westonzoyland, comprising this district to improve the condition of the Drainage, and that with success. The water supply is fairly good, and the dwellings of the working classes are improved.

Westonzoyland. 1 case of Diphtheria notified to me.

Othery. 1 case of Diphtheria reported to me.

Lyng. No infectious cases reported.

HUNTSPILL DISTRICT.

Population, 6,350.

		1907.	1908.
Birth Rate	...	23·0	20·8
Death Rate	...	13·5	14·0

8 Diphtheria cases were notified to me from Pawlett, Huntspill and Puriton.

Woolavington. No infectious cases reported to me.

Cossington. No infectious cases notified to me.

Chedzoy. In a healthy condition, only 1 case of Scarlet Fever notified to me.

Moorlinch. No infectious cases notified to me.

Chilton Polden and Edington No infectious cases reported to me.

Sutton Mallett and Stawell. In a healthy condition.

Catcott. No infectious cases notified to me.

Shapwick. No infectious cases reported to me.

Ashcott. 1 case of Diphtheria reported.

Greinton. Healthy village, no case of infectious nature.

Bawdrip. No infectious cases notified to me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILBERFORCE THOMPSON.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

For the Year 1908.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I herewith present to you my Seventh Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition of the Bridgwater Rural District for the year ending 1908.

I have during the year, made Inspections of the whole of the District from time to time and have had brought to my notice 393 complaints, all of which have had my best attention in cases where necessary Statutory Notices have been served by Council's directions, and the following nuisances have been abated :—

Statutory notices served	...	...	...	51
Defective privies	...	...	...	19
Ditches found foul	...	...	...	21
Pigs kept improperly	...	...	...	13
Defective drainage	...	...	...	10
Wells polluted	...	...	...	2
Premises in a dirty state	...	...	...	22
Council's drains choked and cleaned	...	...	...	15
Council's cesspools and ditches	...	...	...	17
New W.C.'s built	...	...	...	6
Dangerous buildings pulled down	...	...	...	5
Disinfecting rooms after F. and D.	...	...	...	42
Overcrowding cases	...	...	...	2
Tested new drains	...	...	...	15

15 Samples of water have been taken by Council's orders, with the exception of 1, all were unfit for dietetic use.

Dairies registered	92
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The new drainage scheme at Wembdon has been completed and the whole of the connections have been made ; in all cases Inspection Chambers have been made and properly trapped and the open ditches have been thrown out and disinfected.

About 294 yards of 6-inch Socket Pipe Sewer has been laid at Westonzoyland and several owners of farms have connected up their drainage with same.

About 90 yards of 9-inch pipes have been laid across Mr. Burnell's field at Cannington and the foul ditch has been cleaned out.

About 100 yards of 6-inch Socket Pipes have been laid at Othery and the owners have connected up their drainage with same.

A Ventilation 25 ft. high has been fixed on the Bristol Road end of the Burial Board Sewer at Hawkhurst.

A new Sewer 44 yards has been laid at Middlezoy.

Bake-houses have been inspected from time to time and have been cleaned out with lime.

Slaughter-houses have been inspected and white-limed out where found dirty.

Milk-shops and Dairies have been inspected, and where found dirty, have been cleaned and whitened out.

Factories and Blacksmiths' Shops have been whitened out where found in a dirty condition.

A number of Cow-houses have been paved, whitened out and the drains relaid and several are in hand at the present time. I may say a very great improvement has taken place in this direction and I hope to get a number more to comply with the work of paving and draining this year.

Disinfectants have been supplied to anyone applying for same and the Gullies have been disinfected in the Villages throughout the district and every open ditch where drains from Farmyards empty, have been disinfected from time to time.

R. POPHAM,

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of the Whole District during 1908 and previous years.
Name of District—Bridgwater Rural District.

Year.	Population estimated to each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.		Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under one year		At all Ages.		9.	10.	11.	
				Number.	Rate per 1000 births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.				
1898	19928	432	24.4	42	90.3	247	14.0		247	14.0	
1899	20039	416	22.7	40	99.9	240	12.9		240	12.9	
1900	20326	372	20.5	39	107.4	228	12.7		228	12.7	
1901	16680	357	21.3	38	101.8	200	11.9		200	11.9	
1902	16680	379	22.7	26	68.6	228	13.6		228	13.6	
1903	16680	366	21.3	26	71.0	197	11.8		197	11.8	
1904	16680	364	21.2	37	101.6	224	13.4		224	13.4	
1905	16680	381	22.8	22	57.7	235	14.0		235	14.0	
1906	18238	395	21.6	29	73.4	224	12.2	29	253	13.8	
1907	18238	384	21.0	29	75.5	225	12.3	23	248	13.6	
Average of years 1898-1907.	18022	384	21.3	32	83.3	224	12.4		230	12.8	
1908	18238	387	21.2	23	59.4	215	11.8	22	237	13.0	

*Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 11 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area covered by water). } 85,076

Total population at all ages 18,238
Number of inhabited houses 4,260
Average number of persons per house 4.28

At
Census
1901.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of seperate Localities in 1908 and previous years.
Name of District—Bridgwater Rural District.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	PETHERTON.				MIDDLEZOY.				HUNTSPELL.				CANNINGTON.				DURLEIGH, WEMBODN, CHILTON TRINITY, AND BRIDGWATER (WITHOUT).			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1898 .	5170	118	67	14	2325	60	28	6	4519	83	66	11					1430	22	8	
1899	5228	115	60	12	2344	49	27	6	4532	82	62	8					1430	16	6	3
1900	4568	111	60	12	2366	45	28	2	4556	42	48	8					1430	19	15	4
1901	4568	96	55	10	1967	44	25	4	6350	146	85	18					814	16	6	
1902	5314	99	52	9	1967	52	32	6	6350	142	87	5					814	11	9	
1903	4568	108	56	8	1967	31	23	5	6350	152	67	7					814	16	5	5
1904	4568	107	54	7	1967	46	30	5	6350	149	88	15					814	14	9	5
1905	4568	107	64	8	1967	46	31	2	6350	163	92	8					814	14	8	1
1906	4568	101	64	9	1967	36	32	4	6350	160	93	10					1758	42	16	4
1907	6425	115	91	6	1967	48	34	5	6350	146	86	17	1738	32	21	5	1758	43	16	1
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907.	4957	107	62	9	2080	45	29	4	5805	125	77	10					1187	21	9	2
1908	6425	143	77	6	1967	34	31	1	6350	132	89	13	1738	35	21	2	1758	43	19	1

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908, In the Bridgwater Rural District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in the whole District.						Total cases notified in each Locality.					
	At Ages Years.						Petherton.	Middlezoy.	Hnntspill.	Cannington. District.	Wembdon.	Bridgewater (Without).
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.							65 and up-wards.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	17		5	11		1	4	2	9		2	
Erysipelas ...	4					4	4					
Scarlet Fever	14		2	9	2	1	3		1	1	2	7
Puerperal Fever	1				1					1		
TOTALS	36		7	20	3	6	11	2	10	2	4	7

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1908.

Name of District—Bridgwater Rural District,

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents occurring in or beyond the District.						Deaths at all ages of Residents belonging to localities whether occurring in or beyond the District.					
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Petherton.	Middlezey.	Huntspill.	Cannington District.	Durleigh, Wembdon, Chilton, Trinity and Bridgewater (Without).
Measels ...	3	1	2	1			4	1	1	2	1	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1						1	1		1		
Epidemic Influenza ...	4	1					1	1	1	2		
Enteritis ...	2	1						3		5	1	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	10			3	5	4	1	2	1	1		
Other tubercular diseases	4					1	9	11	3	5	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease	21	4	1			12	15	7	2	10	2	
Bronchitis ...	21					1	2	1	2	5	1	3
Pneumonia ...	12	1	5	1		3						1
Pleurisy ...	1		1							2		
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	2		2					1		2		
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	3	3				1	2			2		
Premature Birth ...	3									1		1
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1					1				1		
Heart Diseases ...	24					8	16	9	2	11	1	1
Accidents ...	15		1	1	3	8	2	4	4	4	1	2
Suicides ...	3					3		1	1			1
All other Causes	107	13	2	2	4	28	58	36	15	36	12	8
ALL CAUSES	237	23	14	8	12	70	110	77	31	89	21	19

TABLE V.

Name of District--Bridgwater Rural District.
 Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.
 Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under
 One Year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.					Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes.					4	1		1	6	1	2	2	1	2	1	4	1	1	21
{ Certified								1	1										2
{ Uncertified								1				1							
i. Common infectious Diseases.																			
{ Small -pox																			
{ Chicken-pox																			
{ Measles																		1	1
{ Scarlet Fever																			
{ Diphtheria : Croup																			
{ Whooping Cough																			
ii. Diarrhœal Diseases.																			
{ Diarrhœa, all forms																			
{ Enteritis. Muco-enteris																			
{ Gastro-enteritis											1								1
{ Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																			
iii. Wasting Diseases.																			
{ Premature Birth					2			1	3										3
{ Congenital Defects					1	1			2										2
{ Injury at Birth																			
{ Want of Breast-milk, Starvation Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus					1				1	1	1								3
iv. Tuberculous Diseases.																			
{ Tuberculous Meningitis																			
{ Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica																			
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases																			
v. Other Causes.																			
{ Erysipelas																			
{ Syphilis																			
{ Rickets																			
{ Meningitis (not Tuberculous)																	1		1
{ Convulsions					1				1			1		1	1				4
{ Bronchitis														1					4
{ Laryngitis																			
{ Pneumonia													1						1
{ Suffocation, overlaying																			
{ Other Causes								1	1			1				1			3
					5	1		2	8	1	2	2	1	2	1	4	1	1	23

Population estimated to middle of 1908, 18238.

Births in the Year { Legt., 378. Deaths in the Year of { Legt. Infants, 23.
 { Illegt., 9 { Illegt. Infants —
Deaths from all causes, at all ages—237.

TABLE VI.

Births in the Bridgwater Rural District during the
Year 1908.

				1st. Qr.	2nd. Qr.	3rd. Qr.	4th. Qr.	TOTAL.
North Petherton	...	...	...	37	32	37	37	143
Middlezoy	...	...	...	6	7	9	12	34
Huntspill	...	...	...	31	34	33	34	132
Durleigh	...	...	...	—	—	2	—	2
Wembdon	...	...	...	1	3	4	1	9
Chilton Trinity	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Bridgwater (Without)	...	...	...	6	7	10	9	32
Cannington	...	...	..	4	6	5	4	19
Stockland Bristol	...	...	...	1	—	2	—	3
Otterhampton	...	...	...	1	1	3	3	8
Fiddington	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	5
Rate per 1000 1907—21·0								387
ditto 1908—21·2								